

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



June 2018 – August 2018  
Executive Officer Report

## **Table of Contents**

POLICY MEETINGS.....	3
NEW RIVER.....	3
LAND DISPOSAL - WDR PROGRAM.....	4
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) & SITE CLEANUP PROGRAMS.....	4
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAM.....	5
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) NOTIFICATIONS.....	6
SALTON SEA REGIONAL PROGRAM.....	7
NPDES PROGRAM.....	7

## Regional Water Board (RB7) Staff Report

### Policy Meetings

**One World Beef**—Executive Officer Paula Rasmussen and staff met with One World Beef representatives, on August 23, 2018, to tour the facility and discuss Tentative WDRs Order R7-2018-0025. OWB's has proposed for its ongoing use of its existing industrial wastewater pretreatment plant, in lieu of its proposed Bio Filtro system, to reuse the effluent from the beef plant on 140 acres to be planted with Bermuda grass. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE, P.E.*]

### New River

**California - Mexico Border's Relation Council Meeting** —On July 17, 2018, Adriana Godinez participated in the meeting held in the San Diego Regional Board. She gave a presentation on the status of the New River Strategic Plan/Improvement Project. Representatives from other agencies also attended the meeting, including CalEPA, CA Department of Food and Agriculture, San Diego State University, Office of Binational Border Health, CA Department of Public Health Environmental Health Investigations Branch, US International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), CA Department of Parks and Recreation, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA Air Resources Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, CA Energy Commission, US EPA, SEMARNAT, and Secretariat for Environmental Protection of Baja California/SPA.

**Calexico Community Meeting**--On July 19, 2018, Executive Officer Jose Angel, Board Vice Chair Buford Crites, and Adriana Godinez attended the meeting in Calexico to discuss the status of the New River Improvement Project, Proposition 68 and Funding for Infrastructure, as well as the status of the River Parkway for Calexico.

**New River Improvement Project 30% Design Review Meeting**—On August 23, 2018, the E.O. and staff participated in the Michael Baker Inc. 30% Design Review Meeting in Calexico. R7 representatives went on a tour of the components locations for the project along with US Border Patrol and CalEPA Assistant Secretary Alex Rodarte.

**Bi-National Technical Committee Meeting**--On July 26, 2018, Adriana Godinez attended the meeting of the Binational Technical Committee for the New River/Mexicali Sanitation Program and Binational Observation Tour of New River in Mexicali. Topics discussed during the meeting focused on the status of the sewage infrastructure in Mexicali.

**Emergency Response Technical Work Group (ERTWG)** —Doug Wylie participated in several meetings of the ERTWG. The State and Regional Water Boards are tasked with protecting California's surface and groundwater quality and drinking water supplies, including during the initial emergency response following natural and man-made disasters and in associated long-term recovery efforts. To do so, the Water Boards collaborate and coordinate within the agency and externally with partners and stakeholders to provide resources for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. The ERTWG has been created to facilitate these efforts.

## LAND DISPOSAL - WDR PROGRAM

**Cannabis Operations in Region 7**—June through August 2018, the Executive Officer issued Notices of Applicability of coverage under the State Water Resources Control General Order for cannabis cultivation to cannabis indoor cultivation operations in Region 7. All of the operations are in the Coachella Valley or in the Cities of Needles and Calexico.

**CalEnergy Geothermal Power Plants**—On July 23, 2018, Doug Wylie, Zak Owens, and Scot Stormo met in Palm Desert with representatives of CalEnergy Operating Corporation's Environmental Services Unit to discuss plans to expand the Desert Valley Monofill Landfill near Westmorland. The discharger proposed to submit a new Report of Waste Discharge in 2019.

**Waste Discharge Requirements Program Roundtable**—On July 25, 2018, Doug Wylie participated in the statewide Roundtable meeting teleconference. The agenda included topics on the use of GeoTracker and California Integrated Water Quality Systems (CIWQS) databases for information on the Dischargers self-monitoring reporting and inspections, the development of a Dry Well General Order, and the statuses of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy and Recycled Water Policy.

**Land Disposal Program Roundtable**—On August 1, 2018, Doug Wylie and Scot Stormo participated in the statewide Roundtable meeting. The agenda included topics on disaster debris disposal and water quality issues, implementation of the Compost General Order, the Administrative Procedure Manual (APM). The outcome was information sharing.

## UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAMS

- June 19** Participated in meeting with RM Environmental, Inc, consultant for SoCo Apple Market #4 UST site. Discussed treatment technologies to remediate Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) contamination. [*Phan Le, WRCE, Joan Stormo PG, Senior EG*]
- June 24** Site Cleanup Program (SCP) Roundtable: Participated via teleconference. Discussed Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) ccontract; daily activity recording and tracking system (DARTS) training tutorials; Site Clean-up Subaccount Program (SCAP) updates, and revisions to the SCP Administrative Procedures Manual. [*Phan Le, WRCE; Theresa Kimsey, ES; Jose Cortez, WRCE; Joan Stormo, Senior EG*]
- June 24** Participated in a teleconference with SB UST Program Manager, US-EPA staff, and Redhorse Consultants. Discussed “next steps” to bring recalcitrant and stalled RB7 UST cases into compliance, and closure. Redhorse consultants are under contract with US-EPA and SB to facilitate clean-up activities at recalcitrant and stalled UST cases statewide. Redhorse is currently assisting RB7 with 14 stalled cases. [*Phan Le, WREC; Theresa Kimsey, ES; Kola Olatunbosum, WRCE; Joan Stormo, Senior EG*]
- July 5** Participated in Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) meeting for UST release at 8<sup>th</sup> Street Gas and Minimex in Mecca. Attendees agreed to next steps of Project Execution Plan; RB staff drafted correspondence to responsible party. [*Kola Olatunbosum, WRCE; Joan Stormo, Senior EG*]

- July 13** Mailed Site Cleanup Cost Recovery Program annual estimation letters (15 sites/letters in total).
- July 12** Participated in ECAP meeting for UST release at the Former E-Z Serve #100827 in Brawley. Attendees agreed to next steps of Project Execution Plan
- Aug. 1** UST Roundtable: Hosted UST roundtable via Skype for Business. SB staff attended meeting at RB7 facility. Discussions included age and material of remaining single walled USTs; GeoTracker generated list of sites with data from CalTech labs currently under investigation for fraud; and vapor intrusion guidance. After the meeting, SB and RB staff discussed case specifics and management of various RB7 sites. [Phan Le, WREC; Theresa Kimsey, ES; Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE; Jose Cortez, WRCE; Joan Stormo, Senior EG]
- Aug. 22** Reviewed and commented on three workplans for UST release at Antunez Autobody in El Centro:
- a. *Remedial Well Installation and Remedial Feasibility Testing Workplan,*
  - b. *Workplan for Soil Vapor Investigation, and*
  - c. *Workplan for Installation of Off-Site Remedial Groundwater Monitoring Wells*

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAM

- June 12** Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Holtville: Reviewed UST Closure Request Reports. Notified NAAS that reports were incomplete via teleconference; required groundwater and soil gas data. Site Investigation was completed in 2016-2017 to provide the data, however the SI Report had not been completed by ACOE. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]
- June 18-19** Twenty-Nine Palms MCAGCC: Reviewed and provided comments for:
- a. *Final Groundwater Monitoring Report for IR Sites 4, 17A, and 18. Concurrence letter issued August 31, 2018.*
  - b. *Draft Well Destruction Work Plan for IR Sites 4, 17A, and 18. Comment letter issued July 19, 2018, and*
  - c. *Final Revised IR Site 21 Closure Summary Report. No Further Action letter issued July 20, 2018. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]*
- June 22** China Lake Salton Sea Test Base: Previewed *CERCLA Five-Year Review Report*. Provided email responses June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 2018. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]
- July 24** DOD Roundtable: Participated via teleconference. Discussions focused on regulation of waste disposal sites at military facilities, and how to address background and cumulative risk in a Health Risk Assessment. [Jose Cortez, WRCE; Joan Stormo, Senior EG].
- July 25** Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corps Air to Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC): Reviewed and provided comments on *Draft Time-Critical Removal Action Report IR 65, comment letter issued July 25, 2018, and IR Site 21 Revised Closure Summary Report*. No Further Action letter issued July 20, 2018. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**Aug. 21** China Lake SSTB: Completed review of *CERCLA Five-Year Review Report* and provided comments. Comment letter issued August 21, 2018. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**Aug. 29** Twenty-Nine Palms MCAGCC: Completed review and commented on:

- a. *Final Groundwater Monitoring Report for UST Site 10*, concurrence letter issued August 24, 2018, and

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) NOTIFICATIONS

**June:** Reviewed 31 OES reports in June for railcar derailments, and minor spills varying from 4 oz. of spray paint to 50 gallons of petroleum. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**June 22** Responded to Niland Geyser incident. Conducted site visit to observe activities, assess nature of the release, and possible impacts to surface waters ("Z" Drain). [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**June 30** Responded to well "blow-out" incident at Niland Geyser. While drilling a well to control the pathway of surfacing "groundwater", the mud rotary drilled into a pocket of high pressure carbon dioxide gas causing a blow-out. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**July:** Reviewed 29 OES reports in July for minor spills varying from 6 oz. of hexamethylenediamine solution to 90 gallons of petroleum. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**July 9** Responded to ten-gallon transformer oil release to Dahila Canal in El Centro. Drinking water was not impacted. Receipt confirmation required. Forwarded spill report to Surface Water Unit. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**July 11** Responded to the disposal of 15.5-tons of hazardous (Class 1) mining waste to a facility permitted to receive Class II wastes (Desert Valley Class II landfill). Transferred to Land Disposal Unit for enforcement. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**July 13** Responded to 12 train car derailment in Needles. No hazmat material reported onboard. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

**July 13** Responded to one train car derailment in Heber. No injuries or hazardous materials release.

**July 31** Responded to railroad fatality in Calexico (uneventful).

**August:** Reviewed 18 OES reports for minor spills varying from 3.5 ml of Nitrile High Performance Plastic Adhesive to 50 gallons of petroleum.

## SALTON SEA REGIONAL PROGRAM

#### *Assistance provided to Border Patrol-*

At the request of Mike Matzke, President of the Border Patrol Union AFGE/NBPC, Local 2554, RB7 staff met with consultants/ scientists to provide technical information regarding current monitoring efforts at Salton Sea. The consultation was requested by Mr. Matzke in response to ongoing health concerns raised by border patrol agents who regularly work within the vicinity of the New River and Salton Sea. Rb7 staff accompanied the consultants in the field as well, to explore the south shore of the sea and provided suggestions for potential monitoring sites that could be incorporated into their monitoring efforts.

#### *Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)-*

RB7 Salton Sea monitoring for HABs continues at (5) Salton Sea locations, and levels of anatoxin-a continue to be detected. Monitoring at Varner Harbor was terminated, due to a lack of connectivity between the harbor and the main sea. RB7 also responded to a public complaint of a bloom at a condominium complex in Indio. Subsequent sampling and lab analysis did not reveal any algal toxins in the water, and both the complainant and RP were notified of the results, expressing their appreciation. The cause of the bloom appears to have been a heavy concentration of dinoflagellates, which were observed in the sample.

#### *Science Symposium-*

RB7 participated in the 2018 California Water Boards Science Symposium in June, held at CalEPA Headquarters in Sacramento, CA. This year's theme was ***Adapting in the Face of Disruptive Landscape Change***. At the request of Board Member Jane Powell, RB7 staff, in collaboration with UC Riverside staff, created and presented a display titled ***Projected Salt Load Balance for a Sea-to-Sea Water Import Scenario for Salton Sea***. The display was a base model for showing the volumes of water that would need to be pumped in and out of the sea, in order to maintain desired salinity and elevation levels. The display generated much interest, and staff had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion.

## **NPDES PROGRAM**

### **Storm Water Construction General Permit Annual Report Reminder**

State Water Board Storm Water Program staff coordinated with Regional Water Board staff sending out the 2017-2018 Construction General Permit (CGP) annual report reminder email to the CGP enrollees on July 31, 2018. The annual report is due by September 1. The reminder email was sent to the owner contact, site contact, and any person linked to the permitted facility with an outstanding 2017-2018 annual report. [Suhas Chakraborty, WRCE]

### **Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Emergency Notification for Discharging Low Threat Wastewater near Niland, Imperial County**

On June 23, 2018, an emergency declaration was made by Imperial County due to a naturally occurring mud pot geyser rapidly migrating toward and threatening UPRR's railroad tracks, Highway 111 and buried utilities. The location is approximately 0.6 miles south of the intersection of Highway 111 and Gillespie Road in Imperial County. UPRR installed groundwater extraction wells near the geyser to relieve and redirect the flow emanating from the geyser into a temporary diversion ditch that redirected flow into the Z Drain, a Water of the United States. The discharge is necessary to protect the above-mentioned transportation infrastructure and utilities. Notice of Intent (NOI) to discharge low threat wastewater was submitted by UPRR on June 23, 2018. A Notice of Applicability (NOA) of General Permit of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Low Threat Discharge to Surface Water was issued on June 25, 2018. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]

## **Desert Task Force Meeting for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Phase I Permittee**

Staff participated in the Desert Task Force meeting on August 8, 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update of the storm water program and share information with permittees for implementation of storm water program. Riverside County Flood Control District, principle permittee of Whitewater River Watershed MS4 Phase I permit, organized a presentation of Public Education Strategic Plan to improve the permit implementation. The group engaged in discussion regarding: 1) identifying the issues; 2) identifying the targets; 3) recognizing the barriers; 4) establishing objectives; 5) developing tactics; and 6) establishing metrics. A draft of strategic plan will be provided to all permittees this Fall. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.*]

## **401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) Application - Coachella Valley Water District Groundwater Replenishment Project**

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) proposes to create three new groundwater replenishment ponds within the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel near the CVWD Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Palm Desert. The proposed project would also include an extension of the Mid Valley Pipeline to feed Colorado River water into the new ponds. CVWD invited Water Board staff along with Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a site visit on June 28, 2018. Staff and other regulators were shown the site and able to discuss plans for the proposed project with CVWD project and construction managers to aid the permitting process. On July 25, 2018, staff sent CVWD a letter requesting additional information regarding the 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application. The review process of WQC application is currently on hold pending receipt of necessary documents addressing mitigation, groundwater quality, and a sediment control plan. [*Emma McCorkle, Environmental Scientist*]

## **401 Water Quality Certifications Issued**



The following table shows the status of all 401 WQC applications, completed or in progress, from June to August 2018 at the Colorado River Basin Water Board.

**2018 (June – August)**

<b>Notification Date</b>	<b>Orders Issued/Denied</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>
<a href="#"><u>07/30/2018</u></a>	In review process	Caltrans	Interstate 10 Paul Gulch Bridge Maintenance Project
<a href="#"><u>07/23/2018</u></a>	In review process	City of La Quinta	Dune Palms Road Low Water Crossing Replacement Project
<a href="#"><u>07/20/2018</u></a>	In review process	Southern California Edison	Devers-Colorado River #1 500 Kilovolt Transmission Line Rating and Remediation Project
<a href="#"><u>07/12/2018</u></a>	In review process	SoCalGas	SoCalGas L3000, Park Moabi Exposure Repair Project
<a href="#"><u>06/12/2018</u></a>	In review process	Coachella Valley Water District	Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project
<a href="#"><u>06/05/2018</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>08/22/2018</u></a>	City of Palm Springs	East Palm Canyon Drive over Palm Canyon Wash Bridge Rehabilitation Project
<a href="#"><u>04/26/2018</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>07/09/2018</u></a>	Caltrans	Imperial 111 Sediment and Vegetation Removal Project
<a href="#"><u>04/25/2018</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>06/18/2018</u></a>	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Palm Springs Master Drainage Plan (MDP) Line 41, Stage 3 Project
<a href="#"><u>03/01/2018</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>06/06/2018</u></a>	Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR)	UPRR MP 671.07 - Bridge Replacement Project
<a href="#"><u>01/05/2018</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>08/22/2018</u></a>	Banning Wilson 97, LLC	TM 36939 Project
<a href="#"><u>12/12/2017</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>07/16/2018</u></a>	Pardee Homes	Phase I Butterfield Specific Plan Project (Tentative Tract Map 37298)
<a href="#"><u>09/29/2017</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>08/01/2018</u></a>	Needles Marina Park	Needles Marina Maintenance Dredging Project